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SENATE BILL 1755  
By Graves

AN ACT to create a pilot project relative to youth suicide awareness and prevention.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a pilot project to develop, coordinate, conduct and administer educational programs and seminars relative to youth suicide awareness and prevention in Tennessee's middle schools and high schools and to establish a statewide model for awareness and prevention of youth suicide.

SECTION 2. Funds appropriated for the pilot project shall be utilized for programs and seminars that are based upon the "triangle of prevention" strategy of youth suicide prevention through education to raise awareness, development of materials for the detection and identification of at-risk youth, and provision of resources that are effective in prevention and treatment. This "triangle of prevention" module shall be consistent with the Center for Disease Control guidelines for youth suicide prevention by serving our young people through the provision of positive peer support programs for students, in-service training modules for teachers and other educators, and parent/community seminars for parents and other concerned citizens.

SECTION 3. The educational programs and seminars administered through the pilot project shall be conducted in at least seventy-five (75) schools in each grand division of the state. The programs and seminars shall, to the maximum extent possible, be distributed equally among middle schools and high schools in each grand division.

SECTION 4. The pilot project shall utilize sample projection surveys to create outcome-based reports relative to the effectiveness of enhancing awareness and prevention resources to combat the "Silent Epidemic" of youth suicide.

SECTION 5. To effectuate the purposes of this act, the department of education shall contract with The Jason Foundation, Inc. to carry out the mission of the pilot project created herein.

SECTION 6. The commissioner of education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 7. The department of education shall provide a report to the education committees of the house and the senate by April 1, 2003, outlining the effectiveness of the project together with its recommendations as to whether the pilot project should be continued as a pilot project or expanded as a state-wide program.

SECTION 8. The pilot project created by this act shall cease to exist on July 1, 2003.

SECTION 9. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 10. For the purpose of promulgating rules and regulations, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.